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SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

1. HIGHLIGHTS. NYTIMES UNAVAILABLE. WASHPOST FEATURES PRESIDENT'S TELEVISED NEWS CONFERENCE, ALSO FRONTPAGES KALMBACH ENTERS GUILTY PLEAS; PLUS SYRIA SEEN EASING POLICY ON PULLBACK. INSIDE STORIES INCLUDE: KISSINGER STOPS IN LONDON, SHULTZ ASSURES SOVIETS ON TRADE; ASPIN CHARGES EX-IM BANK CONFLICT OF INTEREST INVOLVING BECHTEL; AUTO BIG THREE JOINING IN CUBA TALKS.

2. PRESIDENT. WASHPOST FEATURES NIXON FORESEES NO IMPEACHMENT, ALSO REJECTS IDEA OF RESIGNING TO AID PARTY, INSISTS CONGRESS MAY BRING IMPEACHMENT CHARGE ONLY ON A FINDING OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT, DISCLOSES REFUSAL TO TESTIFY BEFORE A WASHINGTON WATERGATE GRAND JURY AND HIS COUNTER-OFFER TO RESPOND TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS OR MEET PERSONALLY WITH JAWORSKI WAS REJECTED. PRESIDENT ALSO LAUDS SOLZHENTISYN'S COURAGE, IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT NATION'S ECONOMY.

3. KALMBACH. BEFORE PLEADING GUILTY TO VIOLATIONS IN
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1970 OF CAMPAIGN FINANCING LAWS, KALMBACH GAVE WATERGATE

PROSECUTOR AN ACCOUNTING OF ABOUT SIX MILLIONS IN SECRET CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES OF TWO SECRET FUNDS FOR CAMPAIGNS OF 1970 AND 1972, ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES

CITED BY WOODWARD AND BERNSTEIN WHO ADDED THAT 50,000 WAS CONTRIBUTED BY FRED J. RUSSELL, UNDER SECRETARY OF INTERIOR WHO LATER BECAME AMBASSADOR TO DENMARK AND ANOTHER 50,000 BY VINCENT DE ROULET THEN AMBASSADOR TO JAMAICA, AND KALMBACH HANDLED SECRET FUND OF NEARLY TWO MILLIONS USED IN 1972 FOR UNDERCOVER POLITICAL WORK INCLUDING THAT OF SEGRETTI AND ULASEWICZ. STORY SAYS KALMBACH HAS GIVEN JAWORSKI FIRST FULL ACCOUNTING OF THIS FUND WHICH SOURCES BELIEVE INCLUDED ILLEGAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR AMBASSADORSHIPS.

3A. SEPARATE INSIDE STORY REPORTS THAT IN A CRIMINAL INFORMATION TO WHICH KALMBACH PLEADED GUILTY IT IS SAID FYFE SYMINGTON AGREED TO CONTRIBUTE 100 THOUSAND IN 1970 TO SECURE A EUROPEAN AMBASSADORSHIP.

4. EX-IM BANK. REP. ASPIN CHARGES CONFLICT OF INTEREST WHEN EX-IM BANK LOANED 157 MILLION FOR ALGERIAN CONSTRUCTION PROJECT WHILE STEPHEN BECHTEL, A DIRECTOR OF BECHTEL CORPORATION WHICH IS CONNECTED WITH CONSTRUCTION OF LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS PROJECT, WAS ON BANK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE; AND BANK LATER APPROVED 100 MILLION DOLLAR LOAN FOR EGYPTIAN PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION BY BECHTEL, ACCORDING ASPIN.

5. KISSINGER. WASHPOST LONDON BERGER REPORTS KISSINGER IN LONDON BEFORE GOING ON TO MIDDLE EAST, WITH US OFFICIALS PREDICTING TRIP WILL MAKE ONLY MINIMAL PROGRESS TOWARD DISENGAGEMENT OF ISRAELI AND SYRIAN FORCES ON GOLAN HEIGHTS. KISSINGER SCHEDULED TO SEE HEATH AND FOREIGN SECRETARY BEFORE HEADING FOR DAMASCUS. US OFFICIALS TRAVELING WITH KISSINGER SAID HE HOPED TO ESTABLISH FORUM FOR ISRAELI-SYRIAN TALKS BUT LITTLE MORE, ADDING CHANCES WERE VIRTUALLY NONEXISTENT THAT ACTUAL DISENGAGEMENT COULD BE ACHIEVED DURING ONE-WEEK TRIP. KISSINGER'S CURRENT TRIP, SAYS BERGER, COULD TURN OUT TO BE FAR MORE UNCLASSIFIED

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COMPLEX THAN ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN TALKS BECUASE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO BE IN DISARRAY, SYRIAN DOMESTIC SITUATION IS CONSIDERABLY MORE COMPLEX THAN EGYPTIAN AND ANY DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES ON GOLAN HEIGHTS INVOLVES ACTUAL ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS WHICH MRS. MEIR SAID NEVER WOULD BE ABANDONED. US OFFICIAL TRAVELING WITH KISSINGER SAID HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO GET POW LIST HELD BY SYRIA AND WAS HOPEFUL OF MAKING PROGRESS ON THIS ISSUE. OFFI-

CIAL WITH KISSINGER SAID THERE WERE THREE POSSIBLE WAYS FOR TALKS TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA: A KILOMETER 101-TYPE ARRANGEMENT; GENEVA MILITARY COMMISSION

WHERE SYRIA COULD PARTICIPATE AS PART OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY DELEGATION; OR NEW SYRIAN-ISRAELI MILITARY COMMISSION. US OFFICIAL SAID KISSINGER COULD BE EXPECTED TO MAKE ANOTHER TRIP TO REGION IN THREE OR FOUR WEEKS, AFTER SYRIAN-ISRAELI TALKS PROGRESS TO CERTAIN POINT; US OFFICIALS ADDING KISSINGER RECOGNIZES NEED TO GET AWAY FROM TAKING DIRECT HAND IN EVERY ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATION, BUT ON OTHER HAND FEELS HE MUST DO AS MUCH ON SYRIAN FRONT AS HE DID ON EGYPTIAN. US OFFICIALS TRAVELING WITH KISSINGER TOOK ISSUE WITH ALLEGATION THAT NIXON HAD ERRED IN SPEAKING OF EMBARGO DURING STATE OF UNION ADDRESS BUT IMPLICITLY ACKNOWLEDGED NIXON'S REMARKS MAY HAVE DELAYED LIFTING OF EMBARGO. IN LONDON, US OFFICIAL SAID KISSINGER PLANNED DISCUSS: TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST, TWO ATLANTIC DECLARATIONS NIXON HOPES TO SIGN ON TRIP TO EUROPE IN APRIL, ENERGY GROUP NOW BEING FORMED, AND SALT TALKS, US OFFICIALS SAID THEY NOW HAVE AN APPROACH ON SALT, NOT A PROPOSAL, AND SAID US GOVERNMENT IS NOW SUBSTANTIALLY UNIFIED IN ITS STAND.

6. SHULTZ. WASHPOST REPORTS SCHULTZ BRIEFED SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER YESTERDAY ON CONTINUED INTEREST OF PRESIDENT NIXON IN TRADE AND FINANCE WITH MOSCOW. ACCORDING TREASURY SPOKESMAN, THE TALKS WERE THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF EVENTS FOR THE VISITING RUSSIANS WHICH WILL INCLUDE THE FIRST MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE US-USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL, A WHITE HOUSE DINNER, AND A MEETING WITH SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS. THE SOVIET VISIT IS REPORTED AS TAKING ON ADDED SIGNIFICANCE
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BECAUSE SENATE HEARINGS ON THE ADMINISTRATION TRADE BILL WILL START NEXT WEEK,

7. CUBA. WASHPOST HAS HAVANA STORY REPORTING REPRESENTATIVES OF ARGENTINE SUBSIDIARIES OF GENERAL MOTORS, FORD, AND CHRYSLER ARRIVED FOR TALKS ON CAR SALES, SPEAKING OF 440,000 VEHICLES IN THREE YEARS. STORY RECALLS KISSINGER IN MEXICO SAID LIFTING OF US RESTRICTIONS WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION. CASEY

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